

Preliminary Outline of Environmental Element

2004 Seattle Comprehensive Plan Update

March 2, 2004

General Update Approach

- Provide overarching environmental goals and policies in environment element
- Integrate environmental goals and policies throughout comprehensive plan
- Reduce redundancy between elements and increase clarity
- Move specific environmental goals and policies into appropriate elements

Typical Amendments to Element

- Where a goal or policy is already presented in the element to which it directly relates, delete from environmental element
- Where a goal or policy is directly and uniquely related to another element, move it to that element
- Develop overarching environmental goals and policies for the environment element
- Incorporate the concept of ecosystem services – the valuable functions that a healthy ecosystem provides such as cleaning air and water of pollutants.
- Incorporate the idea of restorative development – development that seeks to recreate and incorporate ecosystem services.

Potential New Concepts

- Consider natural systems and built infrastructure as linked systems.
- Promote sustainable management of public and private open spaces.
- Strive to maximize the amount of vegetative cover in the City and work to achieve a sustainable urban forest.
- Seek an equitable distribution of environmental resources among all groups in the city.